

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 /053 W
----- 063606

R 161915Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2260

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, NA

SUBJECT: AFTERMATH OF APRIL ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 114082 (NOTAL)

1. APRIL ELECTIONS WERE FOR ISLAND COUNCIL AND DID NOT DIRECTLY AFFECT THE COALITION IN THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. NEVERTHELESS, STRONG SHOWING OF FRENTE OBRERO COUPLED WITH UNFORESEEN RESIGNATION OF PSD FROM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COALITION HAS RAISED PROBLEMS FOR PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ. THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT COALITION OF MEP, NVP-U, BONAIRE AND THE WINDWARD ISLANDS' PARTIES NOW HAS 12 STATEN SEATS OF A TOTAL OF 22, HAVING LOST THEIR 2/3 MAJORITY BY THE RESIGNATION OF PSD. FRENTE'S OBVIOUS DESIRE IS FOR PLACE IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AS RECOGNITION OF ELECTION GAINS AND WILLINGNESS TO BE PART OF ISLAND GOVERNMENT.

2. FORMATION OF NEW ISLAND COUNCIL IS NOT YET DEFINITE. NEW COUNCIL TAKES OFFICE FIRST WEEK OF JULY, GIVING PARTIES PLENTY OF TIME TO NEGOTIATE. FRENTE LEADER, WILSON QTE PAPA UNQTE GODETT HAS TOLD US THAT ORGANIZATION OF ISLAND COUNCIL WILL BE NO PROBLEM SINCE PSD WILL COOPERATE WITH FRENTE, THUS GIVING TOTAL OF 11 OF 21 SEATS TO PROPOSED COALITION. THIS WAS NOT CONFIRMED

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BY PSD, WHO LAST NIGHT TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT

PSD IS QTE STILL CONSIDERING UNQTE THEIR POSITION IN ISLAND GOVERNMENT.

3. ON NATIONAL LEVEL, FRENTE HAS GAINED NO, RPT NO UDDITIONAL SEATS IN STATEN. (FRENTE WON 3 STATEN SEATS IN THE 1973 STATEN ELECTIONS.) IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FRENTE WILL BE INVITED TO JOIN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, REPLACING 3 SEATS LOST BY PSD'S DEFECTION. GODETT HAS TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE FRENTE SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN A GOVERNMENT LED BY PRIME MINISTER EVERTSZ. HE APPARENTLY HOPES THAT FRENTE CAN PLAY MEP AGAINST NVP FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES.

4. WINDWARD ISLAND ELECTIONS HELD MAY 9 GAVE CLAUDE WATHEY'S DP ALL 5 SEATS ON ST. MARTIN, AND 9 OF THE 15 SEATS IN WINDWARD ISLANDS' COUNCIL. WATHEY IS THUS SECURE IN HIS OWN POSITION AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN WHATEVER COALITION EMERGES FROM FURTHER TALKS.

5. COMMENT: IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL WHAT THE RESULTS OF THE MANEUVERING WILL BE. THE NVP MAY BE WILLINR TO COOPERATE WITH FRENTE BOTH IN THE ISLAND AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS, IF FRENTE'S DEMANDS ARE NOT TOO GREAT. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT GODETT WILL BE ABLE TO FORCE THE PM TO RETIRE FROM OFFICE; THERE APPEARS NO REASON FOR NVP TO ALLOW MEP TO DICTATE ITS INTERNAL PARTY POLICY. IF GODETT IS REALLY INTERESTED IN ENTERING THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO ACCEPT THE PRESENT SITUATION. HE MAY BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT FOR 2 CABINET SEATS, ONE OF WHICH (LABOR) IN ALL PROBABILITY WILL GO TO HIM AND THE SECOND TO DON MARTINA.
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